Applications of Assesses in Settlement Commission

2256. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of applications of assesses in Settlement Commission (Income-tax & Wealth-tax) New Delhi, in which provisions contained in Sub-sections (2A), (2B), (2C) and (2D) of Section 245D of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 were violated during the last three years while dealing with them;

(b) what action Government propose to take against the guilty officials of the Commission, who are responsible for such violations; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to initiate to check such violation of Act in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No such violation has come to the notice of the Settlement Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Airports at Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

2257. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the extended airport at Hyderabad will be completed;

(b) the reasons for its delay in commissioning;

(c) whether there is any proposal to privatise Ahmedabad Airport; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to meet the problems of congestion there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The new Integrated Block and the modified Domestic Terminal Building at Hyderabad are likely to be ready by October, 1996 and December, 1997 respectively. The delay is mainly due to the existence of a massive rock structure at the construction site and resource constraint of the erstwhile contractor.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to reduce congestion at Ahmedabad airport, the Airports Authority of India has plans for developing a new terminal complex for handling 2000 domestic and 1000 international passengers.

Constitution of third Press Commission

2258. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some requests for constitution of a Third Press Commission to remove stagnation in cadres of news paper industry and a time bound promotion policy for different cadres of employees of news papers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these requests;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have also requested to set up an Urdu Press Group; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Pension scheme for bank employees

2259. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pension scheme is in force for retired bank employees;

(b) if so, the persons eligible for pensions under this scheme;

(c) whether benefit of pension is denied to employees retired prior to 1st January, 1986;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) out of the employees retired prior to 1st January, 1986, how many are alive at present;

(f) whether such a cut of date is in force in respect of the pension schemes of Air India Employees, Delhi Transport Corporation etc.; and

(g) whether Government propose to take steps to rectify this anomaly against bank employees retired prior to 1st January, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) In pursuance of an understanding reached between Indian Banks' Association (representing Banks' Management) and representatives of bank employees/officers in October 1993, a pension scheme has been introduced in lieu of contributory provident fund (broadly on the basis of pension scheme applicable to Government? Reserve Bank of India employees) in the public sector banks (Except State Bank of India which already had a pension scheme).

In terms of the scheme, employees who were in service of the bank before 29.9.95 and continue to be in service on 29.9.95 had the option either to opt for pension in lieu of contributory provident fund scheme or continue with the contributory provident fund scheme. Employees who joined the bank service on or after 29.9.95 are governed by the pension regulations only. Employees who retired on or after 1.1.1986 are also eligible for pension provided they give their option and apply for the sceheme within prescribed period and refund the bank's contribution towards provident fund alongwith interest received with further simple interest @ 6% p.a. from the date of withdrawal of the provident fund till the date of refund.

(c), (d) & (g) The employees of aforesaid public sector banks who retired prior to 1.1.1986 are not entitled for the pension but they have already availed the benefit of contributory provident fund. The pension scheme in these banks is on the lines of the scheme of Reserve Bank of India which also stipulates the cut off date as 1.1.1986. It may be mentioned that when introducing any new benefit, stipulating a cut-off date is inevitable. Further it is neither feasible nor practicable to cover all past retired employees.

(e) Indian Banks' Association on has reported that it does not collect such information.

(f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में मलेरिया का उन्मूलन

2260. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मलेरिया रिसर्च सेंटर और मेडिकल रिसर्च सेंटर द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश के मंडला जिले के आदिवासियों में मलेरिया से संबंधित विषयों पर गहन अध्ययन किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में प्रतिवेदन कब प्राप्त हुआ था और उसमें क्या-क्या प्रमुख निष्कर्ष निकाले गए हैं;

(ग) क्या इस प्रतिवेदन के परिप्रेक्ष्य में केन्द्र सरकार अथवा राज्य सरकार द्वारा मध्य प्रदेश के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में मलेरिया के नियंत्रण हेतु किसी कार्य योजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में की गई कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम शेरवानी): (क) से (घ) मध्य प्रदेश में आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में मलेरिया पर समन्वित रोगाणु नियंत्रण की संभाव्यता पर एक अध्ययन मध्य प्रदेश के मण्डला जिले में भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद के अन्तर्गत मलेरिया अनुसंधान केन्द्र के फील्ड स्टेशन के माध्यम से किए जा रहे हैं और इसके मार्च, 1997 तक जारी रहने की संभावना है।

Tax relief to firms generating employment

2261. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a tax relief to firms generating employment, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to provide strong incentives in the service sector for providing jobs, if so, the details?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In the existing provision of the Income-tax Act, there are certain incentives for promoting industrial